

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method to control a controllable device (8) with a control device (6, 9, 10) in a network comprising several control devices (6, 9, 10),  
5 comprising the steps of:  
    reserving the controllable device (8) with a first control device (6) as  
    a primary controller; and  
    preventing a second control device (9, 10) or a further control device  
    from overruling primary control of the first control device with  
10 secondary control commands.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the second control device  
(9, 10) can reserve the controllable device (8) after the reservation of the  
first control device (6) as a secondary controller so that a further control  
15 device can not overrule secondary control of the second control device (9,  
10) with further control commands.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the controllable device (8)  
sends a rejection to the second control device (9, 10) working as the  
20 secondary controller trying to overrule the first control device (6) working  
as the primary controller or to the further control device trying to overrule  
the first control device (6) working as the primary controller, or the second  
control device (9, 10) working as the secondary controller, and said  
rejection including a list of all primary and/or secondary controllers.  
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4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the controllable device (8)  
sends the rejection directly to the control device (6, 9, 10) that is rejected.
5. The method according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the control device (9,  
30 10) shows a message after the control device (9, 10) has received the  
rejection.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the second control device (9, 10) working as the secondary controller, or the further control device is able to pre-empt the primary and/or the secondary controllers at the controllable device to become the primary controller for the controllable device (8).

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the control device can only pre-empt the first control device (6) and/or the second control device (9, 10) of a certain controllable device (8) after a user action.

8. The method according to claim 6, wherein a pre-empted first control device (6) and/or second control device (9) receives a message regarding which second control device (9, 10) or further control device has pre-empted said first control device (6) and/or second control device (9).

9. The method according to claim 6, wherein the control device can only pre-empt the first control device (6) and/or the second control device (9, 10) of the certain controllable device (8) for a predetermined number of times in a particular time period.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the control device (6, 9, 10) sends control commands directly to the controllable device (8) that is to be controlled.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the control device (6, 9, 10) can reserve the controllable device (8) or pre-empt another control device (6, 9) via a resource manager (7) included in the network.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein said network is a home network.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein said network is a 1394-based network.

14. The method according to claim 1, wherein said controllable device  
5 (8) is a consumer electronic device.

15. A system for managing device control an electronic network,  
comprising:

an electronic device coupled to said electronic network for

10 performing specified functions;

a first controller coupled to said electronic network for establishing

a primary control over said electronic device;

a second controller coupled to said electronic network for seeking  
said primary control over said electronic device; and

15 a resource manager configured to arbitrate between said first  
controller and said second controller for controlling access to  
said primary control over said electronic device.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein said resource manager grants said  
20 second controller a secondary control over said electronic device.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein said first controller and said second  
controller communicate directly with said electronic device during said  
primary control and said secondary control.

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18. The system of claim 15 wherein said second controller utilizes said  
resource manager to pre-empt said first controller and thereby gains said  
primary control over said electronic device.

30 19. The system of claim 15 wherein said network functions in  
accordance with a home audio-video interoperability specification.

20. A system for managing resources in an electronic network,  
comprising:

a network resource coupled to said electronic network for  
performing specified functions;

5 a first client coupled to said electronic network for requesting a  
primary control over said electronic device; and  
a resource manager configured to reserving said primary control  
over said network resource for said first client.

10 21. The system of claim 20 wherein a second client coupled to said  
electronic network seeks said primary control over said network resource,  
and wherein said resource manager negotiates between said first client  
and said second client to obtain said primary control over said network  
resource.

15 22. The system of claim 21 wherein said resource manager initially  
attempts a non-intrusive reservation of said primary control of said  
network resource.

20 23. The system of claim 22 wherein said second client makes a pre-  
emption attempt to gain said primary control when said non-intrusive  
reservation is unsuccessful.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein a pre-emption attempt result for  
25 said pre-emption attempt is determined based on a respective resource  
role categorization for said first client and said second client.

25. The system of claim 21 wherein said network resource is shared  
with a primary access for full control of said network resource, and a  
30 secondary access for limited control of said network resource.